

CASEY, MENENDEZ, and SCHUMER for their leadership on this issue. I also thank our partners in the House for their work, and let me thank Chairman ROCKEFELLER and Ranking Member HUTCHISON for considering this amendment.

I hope Senators on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting for this amendment that will protect our public safety against this new hazard.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to this superb amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I have some notes, but the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island has exhausted my brilliant notes in his own speech. Just let it be said that it is an extraordinarily dangerous situation, this whole concept of stronger lasers, more carefully targeted lasers from greater distances, and being able to do it from behind trees and hidden places blinding, probably temporarily at this point but maybe permanently as they become stronger or doing damage to the eye.

When the Senator spoke about having to turn over the duties of landing the airplane or taking off the airplane to a copilot because of this threat, it makes me worry that it is going to get worse because this is kind of easy to do. In essence, it becomes an act of terrorism, not just the problem of safety for the airplane and its passengers and the pilots.

It is a superb amendment. It is my strong feeling it will pass this body easily and it will become law. The Senator from Rhode Island deserves enormous credit for bringing this to the attention of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the distinguished chairman for his very kind words. Let me thank him for his efforts to support this amendment. His cosponsorship is extremely important. I look forward to working with whatever I can bring to get this amendment successfully adopted into the bill and to get the bill successfully passed. I very much appreciate the chairman's distinguished leadership.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I reluctantly suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ANDRE KIRK AGASSI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Andre Kirk Agassi, professional tennis player and fellow Nevadan, for his induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame earlier this month.

He was born on April 29, 1970, in Las Vegas to Mike and Betty Agassi. The son of a former Iranian Olympic boxer, Andre Agassi's father taught him to play tennis at a very young age. At 16 he made his professional debut, and 1 year later he won his first singles title. He quickly rose to the international stage and was soon ranked No. 1 in the world. He continued to represent Nevada and the United States, as well as athletes by winning a gold medal, which he earned at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and by capturing eight Grand Slams.

He is known as one of the most impressive champions in tennis history, and his charisma for the game drew attention and rivals alike. Many recall the great tennis rivalry with Pete Sampras of the mid-1990s which recaptured a robust following of tennis fans.

Despite his tremendous success as an athlete, his accomplishments off the court are just as impressive. After his first Grand Slam title, Agassi founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Association, which has raised more than \$60 million to help disadvantaged youth in Nevada. In 2001, he also established a charter school for children in underserved communities and has funded countless scholarships. And just as he achieved the No. 1 ranking as a tennis player, Agassi recently reached the top spot on the New York Times Best Sellers List when he released his autobiography.

I commend Andre for his efforts and extend my congratulations to his wife Steffi and their two children. Andre Agassi is an inspiration to all Nevada's student-athletes and I am pleased that his hard work and excellence is being recognized with the highest honor an athlete can receive.

DELISTING OF THE GRAY WOLF

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I have joined my colleagues to introduce legislation to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to remove the gray wolf. The Endangered Species Act has proved a failure for wolf conservation. I believe Congress must pave the way for a new State-based approach.

Since the listing of the gray wolf as endangered in 1976, the Federal wolf recovery programs have been in continuous litigation. The latest Federal district court decision returning the Rocky Mountain gray wolf to the En-

dangered Species List despite a population in excess of agreed upon recovery goals was the last straw. It is evident now that science is not driving recovery; rather, judicial decisions and consent agreements with special interest groups are dictating the fate of wolves and impacted communities. Despite the authorities and responsibilities conveyed to States by Congress under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, State wildlife agencies have become mere bystanders in wolf management under this paradigm.

Take the Mexican gray wolf in the Southwest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS, has not been able to revise the recovery plan for that wolf in 28 years. Why? Because of the litigious nature of activist organizations. Another attempt to overhaul the program and develop a recovery plan is under way, but USFWS estimates that plan is at least 4 to 6 years away, assuming no litigation. We can't expect the public or the wolves to continue to wait.

Acceptance of wolves on the landscape requires preventing, mitigating and responding to livestock depredation and nuisance issues on public, private and tribal lands. It requires trust and implementation of solutions collaboratively developed by local stakeholders. It's time to give States the chance to demonstrate that they can make wolf conservation work for both people and wolves.

Restoring wildlife is not new to States or tribes. In my home State of Arizona, the Game and Fish Department has been very successful in collaborative conservation. A great example is the Southwestern bald eagle. The Game and Fish Department's intensive interagency management of this species has increased its numbers and prevented its listing. The Arizona Game and Fish seeks to apply this proven approach to wolf conservation. This bill, if enacted, would give them the opportunity.

I ask unanimous consent that the following documents be printed in the RECORD in support of this legislation: a letter from the Arizona Game and Fish Department dated December 7, 2010, and a resolution adopted by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies dated January 9, 2011.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE STATE OF ARIZONA,
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT,
Phoenix, AZ, December 7, 2010.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JON KYL,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TRENT FRANKS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN, SENATOR JON KYL AND CONGRESSMAN TRENT FRANKS: The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has concluded it is beyond time to try a different approach to Mexican wolf conservation. We ask